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Statement submitted by World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2010/100.

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Statement

The World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations has a strong commitment to the achievement of equal rights for women. Its representatives have participated in all the major women's conferences, beginning with Mexico City in 1975, Beijing in 1995, and annual attendance at the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. Since the Beijing Conference and the Beijing Platform for Action, substantial progress has been achieved in terms of legislation guiding international norms. Most States Members of the United Nations have signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, along with its Optional Protocol, although some signed with reservations. Most have made commitments to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals agreed to at the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in 2000. Goals 1, 2 and 3 are crucial to the rights of women. Additional positive steps include Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security and 1820 (2008) on sexual violence in armed conflicts. Despite extensive legislative progress, similar progress in the implementation of these legal commitments has not been achieved. One only needs to look at the statistics for trafficking of women and girls, domestic violence, unequal pay for equal work, feminization of poverty, unequal representation of women in elected office and the burden on women with respect to caring for disabled and ageing family members to realize that inequality remains extensive. This imbalance persists despite evidence that when even a semblance of equality is achieved, social and economic well-being soon follows. We can no longer afford to simply make promises of equality while continuing to deprive women of equal rights.

Therefore, we ask all Governments to:

- Implement a policy of zero tolerance for inequality of women and men.
- Implement all commitments under United Nations conventions and their protocols, as well as all other legislation pertaining to equal rights for women and men.
- Urge countries that have not signed the United Nations conventions to do so without delay.
- Remove all reservations to the optional protocols.
- Create quotas for the election of women to Government positions at all levels, in order to achieve 50 per cent participation in decision-making.
- Create family policies that enable women to make free choices about participation in the political, economic and social spheres, while providing care for their children, ageing and disabled family members.
- Provide adequate funding in Government budgets for equal rights education.
- Provide funding and conduct campaigns on equality issues, using modern technology and media.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against women, including prostitution and trafficking, by instituting severe punishment for the purchase of sexual services or forced labour.

- Involve women in decisions about continuing or entering into armed conflict.
- Make concerted efforts to eliminate the resolution of conflict through war, as war itself is the greatest violation of women's human rights.